

**TOWN OF DAVIE
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Parrish, Chair	P
Adrienne Kaltman, Vice Chair	P
Eric Swalley	P
Cynthia Schaefer	P
Stephanie Munson	P
Sam Scott	P
Scott Weinstein	P
Phil Busey	P

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Russell Muniz, Town Clerk
Lise Bazinet, Planner II
David Quigley, Planning and Zoning Manager
David Abramson, Deputy Manager, Planning and Zoning
Susan Starkey, Councilmember, District 3
Judy Paul, Mayor
Macciano Lewis, Assistant Town Administrator
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.

Roll call was taken by Ms. Edmondson, and it was noted there were 8 members present, therefore comprising a quorum.

(2 seats have not yet been appointed.)

2. INTRODUCTIONS / SELECTION OF CHAIR

As this is a new Committee, each member introduced themselves.

Mr. Busey:

- Retired agronomist
- Longtime Davie resident
- Worked for Environmental Horticulture Department
- Previously served on Planning and Zoning Board and on Green Energy Committee for the Town of Davie

Ms. Kaltman:

- Resident of Davie for 10 years
- Studied Environmental Law
- Past President of the Broward County League of Women Voters
- Served on several environmental Committees
- Primarily interested in climate change and subsequent sea level rise

Mr. Swalley:

- Resident since 2001
- Served 3 years on the Youth Education Advisory Committee and Chairman of Green Energy Committee for the Town of Davie
- Primarily interested in hydrogen energy

Ms. Schafer:

- Independent financial advisor
- Resident since 1990
- Permaculturist and organic gardener

Ms. Munson:

- Stay at home mom
- Resident of Davie for over 30 years
- Has horses and cattle
- Served on Broward County Parks Advisory Committee

Dr. Scott:

- Economist
- Interested in building a sustainable community

Mr. Parrish:

- Horticulturist and arborist
- Past Chair of Davie Agriculture Committee
- Interested in green energy

Mr. Weinstein:

- Resident for 40 years
- Owns a nursery in Davie. Served on Urban Farming Initiative Task Force

Mr. Busey nominated Ms. Kaltman for Committee Chair, seconded by Mr. Swalley. Dr. Scott nominated Mr. Parrish for Committee Chair, Ms. Munson seconded. As the voting was tied, Mr. Parrish was elected Committee Chair by coin toss.

Mr. Swalley nominated Ms. Kaltman for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Schaefer. In a roll call vote, Ms. Kaltman was elected Committee Vice Chair.

3. MAYOR PAUL & COUNCILMEMBER STARKEY COMMENTS

Mayor Paul opened by stating that the combination of the Green Energy Committee and Agriculture Committee addresses many of the Mayor's most important concerns. The newly formed joint Committee marks a meshing of the "best of both worlds."

Mayor Paul reviewed the successful initiatives and programs of each of the committees prior to their merging, noting that these issues can be a jumping off point for the new joint Committee.

The Green Energy Committee was instrumental in the success of the Sustainability Plan as well as the Sustainability Guide designed to help developers move closer to LEED compliance without the actual certification. The Green Energy Committee was also tasked with establishing the "Keep Davie Clean" campaign, although it has yet to be implemented.

In regards to the Agriculture Committee, Mayor Paul noted the "farmer friendly" nature of Davie and that the Agriculture Committee updated the Farmers Guide to include the Hobby Farm application information to protect the hobby farmers in Davie.

The Mayor emphasized the continued importance of the Sustainability Plan, citing her recent participation the Mayors' Summit regarding climate change and subsequently ocean rise. She suggested perhaps it would be prudent for Committee members to attend similar events in the future.

Mayor Paul discussed her passion for the issues the Agricultural and Environmental Committee faced. She noted that her credentials and interests were tied directly to the land. She maintains that it is the community's responsibility to take stewardship and protect the land, especially through monitoring the carbon footprint of the Town.

The Mayor greatly emphasized the Committee's communication with the Council, imploring all Committee members to communicate with the Councilmembers who appointed them.

Proper protocol was also discussed. There must be an official Motion, the Motion must pass, and then it is the Chairperson's responsibility to communicate with the Mayor. It is critical for the Mayor and the Chairperson to communicate directly, the Mayor can then go to Council for support and discussion and move forward appropriately. It is important for communication to be directly with the Mayor or Councilmembers, not administrative staff. The Mayor emphasized the importance of this course of action, noting its past success.

Lastly, the Mayor discussed the Farm Park. The Farm Park is a combined effort of all contributing Committees and all input is being considered. As the project moves forward and an official site plan is developed, the Mayor expects the Agricultural and Environmental Committee will be integral in the public hearing process.

Councilmember Starkey opened by agreeing with Mayor Paul, stating the Council recognizes the Committee as her passion and collectively supports her work with the Committee. She extended her

gratitude to the serving Committee members and offered herself as a resource to address questions or discuss ideas.

Councilmember Starkey emphasized the importance of civility and cooperation with in the Committee. She noted that her experience as President of the Broward County League of Cities has demonstrated that not all towns communicate amicably. At times, members of the Committee may need to simply “agree to disagree,” but collectively move forward. An environment of civility and cooperation is imperative to the Committee’s success.

Councilmember Starkey looks forward to the future accomplishment of the Committee.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR LEMACK COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis spoke on behalf of Mr. Lemack. Mr. Lemack agrees with Mayor Paul and Councilmember Starkey and is excited for the new Committee. He believes the new Committee makes a “powerful pact” and is looking forward to the Committee’s expertise and knowledge to help resolve some of the issues the Town faces.

6. ORIENTATION

Mr. Muniz opened the floor any questions or comments before the orientation.

Mr. Swalley asked the Mayor and Councilmember Starkey for direction or anything the Mayor and Council would like to see accomplished.

The Mayor informed the group that projects would be presented to the Committee from the Council. She also clarified that all issues discussed at Committee meetings must be on the agenda so that all interested parties and experts can be included.

Mayor Paul suggested that one of the Committee’s first tasks be to educate the community on all alternative energy ideas. The information should be comprehensive of all energy options and inform the community of the financial and environmental benefits of sustainable energy. The information can be distributed through brochures, press releases and a press conference.

Mr. Weinstein asked the Mayor to clarify the relationship between the two disparate areas of the Committee member’s expertise.

Mayor Paul reemphasized education of the Committee and community on a whole. The two groups of experts need to work cooperatively and recognize the interconnected nature of agriculture and green energy. To her point, the Mayor referenced the potential use of a manure digester as a means of creating alternative energy.

There were also brief discussions regarding Farmers Market as a means of promoting sustainability and attracting tourism, the on goings at Batten Farms, and agri-tourism.

Mr. Muniz acknowledged the administrative staff and reviewed comprising a quorum, meeting schedules, the annual report, revised absence policies, meeting cancellation and Sunshine Law.

The Committee then watched a video regarding Florida's Sunshine Law.

Mr. Muniz continued the discussion regarding proper meeting protocol and etiquette.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Ms. Schafer to move the July 3, 2014 meeting to July 7, 2014, second by Ms. Kaltman. Motion passed by verbal approval.

Motion by Mr. Weinstein to move the January 2, 2014 meeting to January 9, 2014, second by Ms. Schafer. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Motion by Mr. Busey to move all meetings to the second Thursday of each scheduled month, second by Ms. Schafer. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Ms. Bazinet presented the information regarding the Committees ordinances, purpose, and goals. She also discussed the synergy between the combined Committee and their respective goals moving forward, including sustainability, climate change, farming policy, and pollution.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Ms. Schaefer suggested discussing a rain water barrels program and an exploration of alternative ground cover on public grounds as a means of more eco-friendly ground cover.

Chair Parrish is concerned about supply of water barrels.

Motion by Ms. Schafer to add water barrel program to next agenda, seconded by Mr. Busey. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Motion by Ms. Schafer to add exploration of alternative ground cover to turf grass to next agenda, seconded by Mr. Weinstein. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Motion by Mr. Swalley to discuss the Committees official presence at the Orange Blossom Festival. Seconded by Mr. Schaefer. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Motion by Mr. Swalley to lead Committee meetings with Pledge of Allegiance. Second by Vice Chair Kaltman. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Motion by Mr. Schafer to discuss gray water reclamation. Second by Ms. Kaltman. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

Motion by Mr. Weinstein to follow up on recycling containers at all parks. Second by Ms. Schafer. Motion unanimously approved by verbal vote.

9. COMMENTS AND /OR SUGGESTIONS

Dr. Scott suggested creating a more streamlined and clarified outline of the requirements to start a small farm. He will put together a small write up and present it at the next meeting to open further discussion.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Parrish adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Approved


Chair/Committee Member